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EXAMINER

SHAW, PELING ANDY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2144

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/004,384	Applicant(s) STRICKHOLM ET AL.	
	Examiner Peling A. Shaw	Art Unit 2144	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-100 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-100 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 99 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 August 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

*PAS*

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Amendment received on 04/10/2006 has been entered into record. Claims 1, 14, 21, 41, 96 and 99 are amended. Claims 1-100 are still pending.
2. Pre-exam amendment received on 08/26/2002 was entered. Claims 2-100 were new. The amended specification changes are reviewed and accepted. The amended proposed drawing changes are reviewed and accepted. Formal drawing changes are required before the patent publication.

***Priority***

3. This application claims the benefit of 60/245,138 on 11/01/2000. The filing date is 10/31/2001.

***Specification***

4. Applicant is required to provide Brief Description of Drawings on all drawings submitted per MPEP § 608.01(f). Brief description on Figs 64-74 is missing.

*Claim objections*

5. Claim 99 is objected to because of the following informalities:
- a. Claim 99 recites "... comprising the steps (g) through (i): ..." which should be "... comprising the steps (g) through (j): ...". For the purpose of applying art, the correction is read.

Appropriate correction is required.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-48, 50-57 and 95-98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar.

- a. Regarding claim 1, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community, the method comprising: (a) establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing communications between a plurality of users within the community (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12: hierarchy-based organization); (b) distributing control through selection of inherited parameters of said hierarchical structure to at

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least one of said plurality of users (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12: reflect some intuitive relationship between the meanings that have been assigned to the directories), wherein said inherited parameters comprise parameters defining access by said plurality of users to said communications organized within said hierarchical structure (column 11, line 21-62: access control per file, read, update, insert, execute, change permission); (c) storing in said hierarchical structure at least a portion of said communications received from said plurality of users from at least one a plurality of input devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12: for each document to be stored in a directory based on some intuitive relationship between the contents of the document and the meaning assigned to the directory in which the document is stored) in relation to at least one of a plurality of topics (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20: “ready for review” directory); (d) prioritizing said at least a portion of said communications within said hierarchical structure (column 36, line 15-31: e-mail documents to have a priority property attribute); (e) presenting to at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of plurality of input devices a selected portion of said communications stored in said hierarchical structure (column 23, line 34-47: display of contents based upon the query associated with the document directory), wherein said selected portion of said communications are related under a topic (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20: “ready for review” directory); and (f) enabling dynamic interaction through further contributions of communications by said at least a one of said plurality of users through said at least one of a plurality of input devices in response to presentation of said selected portion of said communications within said

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hierarchical structure, wherein said further contributions of communications are stored and accessed within said hierarchical structure in relation to said topic (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20: “ready for review” directory, notification rule, event id, storage, creation, movement, modification or deletion of files).

- b. Regarding claim 2, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said establishing a hierarchical structure further comprises: creating a top-level hierarchy having at least one top-level subject (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); creating at least one mid-level hierarchy, each of said at least one mid-level hierarchy having at least one mid-level subject related to at least one of said at least one top-level subject (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12); and creating a low-level hierarchy having at least one low-level subject related to at least one of said at least one mid-level subject (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12), wherein each of said stored communications becomes an item indexed to at least one of said at least one low-level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).
- c. Regarding claim 3, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 2 wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning at least one top-level leader for each of said at least one top-level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20); assigning at least one mid-level leader for each of said at least one mid-level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20); and assigning at least one low-level leader for each of said at least one low-level subject (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).

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- d. Regarding claim 4, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 3 wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters of said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to each of said at least one top-level subject, wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function by said at least one top-level leader associated with said at least one top-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48); assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to each of said at least one mid-level subject, wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function by said at least one mid-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48); and assigning at least one of said inherited parameters to each of said at least one low-level subject, wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters controls input or access to a database function by said at least one low-level leader associated with said at least one low-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).
- e. Regarding claim 5, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 4: wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one low-level subject inherited from said at least one mid-level subject related to said at least one low-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one said inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one mid-level subject is inherited from said at least one top-level subject related to said at least one mid-level subject



- (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject is inherited from a web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).
- f. Regarding claim 6, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 5: wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of said at least one low-level subject the same as, or narrower scope, than said at least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one mid-level subject related to said at least one low-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of said at least one mid-level subject is the same as, or narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject related to said at least one mid-level subject (column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).
- g. Regarding claim 7, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 6: wherein said at least one of said inherited parameters assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject is inherited from a web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48), and further wherein said at least one parameter inherited by each of said at least one top-level subject is the same as, or narrower in scope, than said at least one parameter assigned to each of said at least one top-level subject by said web master (column 15, line 55-67; column 35, line 27-column 36, line 48).
- h. Regarding claim 8, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 7: wherein each of said inherited parameters



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comprises a one of a privacy parameter, screening parameter, input parameter, user ID parameter, and an approval parameter (column 11, line 21-41).

- i. Regarding claim 9, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 8: wherein each of said inherited parameters has at least one access level, wherein a higher one of each of said at least one access level provides more management control than a lower one of each of said at least one access level (column 11, line 21-62).
- j. Regarding claim 10, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 7 wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters of said hierarchical structure further comprises: allowing said at least one top-level leader associated with said at least one top-level subject, said at least one mid-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject, and said at least one low-level leader associated with said at least one mid-level subject, to change respectively said at least one access level of said inherited parameters at any time (column 11, line 21-62).
- k. Regarding claim 12, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said establishing a hierarchical structure for organizing communications further comprises: utilizing database for establishing said hierarchical structure (column 6, line 43-column 7, line 21), wherein said at least a portion of said communications are stored in said hierarchical structure in said database (column 16, line 55-63).

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- l. Regarding claim 13, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 12 further comprising: recording and storing a communication from a user in said database when said user is not accessing said database at the time said communication is initiated (column 16, line 55-63).
- m. Regarding claim 14, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 14 wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item (column 27, line 24-61).
- n. Regarding claim 15, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 14 wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item (column 27, line 24-61).
- o. Regarding claim 16, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said presenting a selected portion of said communications further comprises: filtering said at least a portion of said communications yielding a filtered portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); consolidating said filtered portion of communications yielding a consolidated portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); sorting said consolidated portion of communications yielding a sorted portion of communications (column 23, line 34-47); and presenting said sorted portion of communications according to a predetermined level of content review (column 23, line 34-47).

- p. Regarding claim 18, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting said at least one said plurality users to an activity within the community, wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical structure, a response from an individual user within the community, a response from any one of a member of a group of users within the community, a new posting from an individual user within the community, and a new posting from any one of a member of a group of users within the community (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).
- q. Regarding claim 19, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting said at least one of said plurality of users to a message within the community, wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home page of said at least one of said plurality of users, to an e-mail account of said at least one of said plurality of users, to a voice mail box of said at least one of said plurality of users, and to some other type of communications device of said at least one of said plurality of users (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20).
- r. Regarding claim 20, Sedlar disclosed a method for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 1 wherein said enabling dynamic interaction further comprises: alerting a select group of others within the community to an activity or a message of said at least one of said plurality of users, wherein said activity is a one of a topic within said hierarchical structure, an item type within said hierarchical

structure, a response from said at least one of said plurality of users, a new posting from said at least one of said plurality of users, and further wherein said message is sent to at least a one of a home page of said select group of others within the community, to an e-mail account of said select group of others within the community, to a voice mail box of said select group of others within the community, and to some other type of communications device of said select group of others within the community (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20)

- s. Claims 21, 28, 30-31 and 34 are of the same scope as claims 1-3, 16 and 20. These are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-3, 16 and 20.
- t. Regarding claim 24, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 21 wherein said application further comprises: a content access interface for determining current hierarchical structure of said database accessible by said plurality of users (column 11, line 21-62); an authorization module for authorizing each of said plurality of users to access a portion of said plurality of communications stored in said database to which each of said plurality of users have access rights and in conjunction with said inherited parameters responsibility module (column 11, line 21-62); an interaction control module for determining a dynamic interaction capability for said plurality of users with said plurality of communications stored in said database which said plurality of users have access rights in conjunction with said inherited parameters responsibility module (column 11, line 21-62); and a content prioritizing interface for sorting and

prioritizing the order said plurality of communications are presented to each of said plurality of users for review (column 36, line15-31).

- u. Regarding claim 25, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 21 further comprising: a recording module accessible by said plurality communication devices (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12), wherein said recording module, after a user input is received in a one of said plurality communication devices on a record option, queries said database causing said database to deliver said one said plurality communication devices said hierarchical structure of said plurality of communications (column 23, line34-47), and further wherein said recording module receives a user selection input of a topic within said hierarchical structure with which to associate a communication from said one of said plurality of communication devices (column 23, line34-47), and further wherein said recording module records and stores in said database said communication sent from said one of said plurality of communication devices (column 23, line34-47).
- v. Regarding claim 27, Sedlar disclosed a computer system for enhancing communication within a community according to claim 25 wherein said recording module resides on said application and is accessed over a communication channel by user input on said record option selected from a tool bar displayed on said one of said plurality of communication devices (column 11, line 21-62).
- w. Claims 35, 37-48 and 50-57 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18-20 and 24. These are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, 18-20 and 24.

- x. Claims 95-98 is of the same scope of claims 1 and 18-20. These are rejected for the same reasons as for claims 1 and 18-20.

Sedlar disclosed all limitations of claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-48, 50-57 and 95-98. Claims 1-10, 12-16, 18-21, 24-25, 27-28, 30-31, 34-35, 37-48, 50-57 and 95-98 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 36 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar, and further in view of Dennis et al. (US 6466932 B1), hereinafter referred as Dennis.

- a. Sedlar shows claim 1 as above. Sedlar does not show (claim 11) wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning an access status to each of said plurality of users, wherein said access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an exclusive access, and further wherein said inclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications said hierarchical structure except where excluded by said inherited parameters, and further wherein said exclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications in said hierarchical structure only where explicitly assigned.

- b. Dennis shows (claim 11) wherein said distributing control through inherited parameters said hierarchical structure further comprises: assigning an access status to each of said plurality of users (column 13, line 5-36), wherein said access status comprises a one of an inclusive access and an exclusive access (column 13, line 5-36), and further wherein said inclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications said hierarchical structure except where excluded by said inherited parameters (column 13, line 5-36), and further wherein said exclusive access allows access to each of said stored communications in said hierarchical structure only where explicitly assigned (column 13, line 5-36) in an analogous art for the purpose of implementing group policy.
- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to a file system with Dennis' functions of access control.
- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have more explicit access control per Dennis' teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.
- e. Claims 36 and 49 are of the same scope as claim 11. These are rejected for the same reasons as for claim 11.

Together Sedlar and Dennis disclosed all limitations of claims 11, 36 and 49. Claims 11, 36 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).



8. Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar, and further in view of Gilchrist et al. (US 6081832 A), hereinafter referred as Gilchrist.

- a. Sedlar shows claim 1 as above. Sedlar does not show (claim 17) wherein said storing in said hierarchical structure further comprises: attaching a resource to at least one of said at least a portion of said communications, wherein said resource is a one of an internal database link, a document/file attachment, and an external Internet link.
- b. Gilchrist shows (claim 17) wherein said storing in said hierarchical structure further comprises: attaching a resource to at least one of said at least a portion of said communications, wherein said resource is a one of an internal database link, a document/file attachment, and an external Internet link (column 15, line 43-58; column 22, line 58-column 23, line 13) in an analogous art for the purpose of object oriented mail server framework mechanism.
- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to a file system with Gilchrist's functions of attachment.
- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have message attachment per Gilchrist's teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.
- e. Claim 29 is of the same scope as claim 17. It is rejected for the same reasons as for claim 17.

Together Sedlar and Gilchrist disclosed all limitations of claims 17 and 29. Claims 17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar, and further in view of Underwood (US 6718535 B1), hereinafter referred as Underwood.

- a. Sedlar shows claims 1, 21 and 25 as above. Sedlar does not show (claim 22) wherein said application platform is a one of a centralized application platform architecture and a distributed application platform architecture, wherein said distributed application platform architecture has a plurality of databases for storing distributively said plurality of communications.
- b. Underwood shows (claim 22) wherein said application platform is a one of a centralized application platform architecture and a distributed application platform architecture (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32), wherein said distributed application platform architecture has a plurality of databases for storing distributively said plurality of communications (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57) in an analogous art for the purpose of an activity framework design in an e-commerce based environment.
- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to a file system with Underwood's functions of client/server distributed information database.

- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have distributive information database functions per Underwood's teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.
- e. Regarding claim 23, Underwood shows further comprising: for said distributed application platform architecture, an inherited parameters synchronization module for determining a one of a plurality of application platforms of said distributed application platform that contains a portion of said plurality of communications sought by a one of said plurality of users, and for routing said one of said plurality of users to said one of a plurality of application platforms (column 1, line 47, column 2, line 32); and a content synchronization module for exchanging and synchronizing content between said plurality of databases (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57).
- f. Regarding claim 26, Underwood shows wherein said recording module resides on said one of said plurality of communication devices (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57).
- g. Regarding claim 32, Underwood shows wherein said reviewing module further comprises: a customized interactive reviewing module for creating digital binder, wherein said customized interactive reviewing module allows each of said plurality of users to aggregate in said digital binder a specific portion of said plurality communications most useful to each of said plurality of users (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57).

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- h. Regarding claim 33, Underwood shows wherein said input module and said thread synchronization module update said digital binder in real time with new content received in said application related to said specific portion of said plurality of communications aggregated in said digital binder (column 46, 52-column 47, line 4, column 120, line 16-57)

Together Sedlar and Underwood disclosed all limitations of claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33.

Claims 22-23, 26 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

- 10. Claims 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sedlar (US 6549916 B1), hereinafter referred as Sedlar, and further in view of Beams et al. (US 6611822 B1), hereinafter referred as Beams.

- a. Sedlar shows claims 1, 18 and 96 as above. Sedlar does not show (claim 99) wherein step (f) replaced by the following new step (f) and further comprising the steps (g) through (j): (f) setting a deadline for rapid feedback evaluation of at least one item type; (g) selecting a type of response for said rapid feedback evaluation of said at least one item type; (h) selecting a group of users to respond to said rapid feedback evaluation of said at least one item type; (i) sending said at least one item type and said selected type of response to said selected group of users; and (j) receiving a plurality of said selected type of response from said selected group of users to said at least one item type.
- b. Beams shows (claim 99) wherein step (f) replaced by the following new step (f) and further comprising the steps (g) through (j): (f) setting a deadline for rapid feedback evaluation of at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); (g) selecting a

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type of response for said rapid feedback evaluation of said at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); (h) selecting a group of users to respond to said rapid feedback evaluation of said at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); (i) sending said at least one item type and said selected type of response to said selected group of users (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45); and (j) receiving a plurality of said selected type of response from said selected group of users to said at least one item type (Fig. 12; column 12, line 4-45) in an analogous art for the purpose of creating collaborative application sharing.

- c. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Sedlar's functions of event notification system tied to a file system with Beams's functions of feedback.
- d. The modification would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have feedback system per Underwood's teaching in addition to a hierarchical access and event functions per Sedlar's teaching.
- e. Regarding claim 100, Sedlar shows (column 27, line 24-61) wherein said at least one item type is a one of an idea, question, event, review, survey, newsletter, and action item.

Together Sedlar and Beams disclosed all limitations of claims 99-100. Claims 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

- 11. Claims 58-69 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-15, 24, 27 and 32-33. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-15, 24, 27 and 32-33.

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12. Claims 70-80 are of the same scope as claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16 and 24. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-5, 9, 11, 14-16 and 24.

13. Claims 81-95 are of the same scope as claims 1-3, 16-17, 20, 22-27 and 32-33. These are rejected for the same reasons for claims 1-3, 16-17, 20, 22-27 and 32-33.

*Response to Arguments*

14. Applicant's arguments filed on 04/10/2006 have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive.

- a. Amended claims are examined and rejected as in the above rejection section.
- b. Applicant alleges that Sedlar does not teach nor suggest "... the dynamic interaction with a selected portion of communications related under a topic in which further contributions of communications are stored and accessed within the hierarchical structure in relation to the topic as claimed in independent claim 1. As recited in the above rejection section, Sedlar has shown for item f in claim 1 that (column 27, line 11-column 28, line 20) a ready for review directory is based upon to provide technical writers to review, store, create, delete, move, modification files; notification rule for generating messages on above actions (as event) sent to users, including technical writers. The above rejection further detail recited references with respect to the claimed limitations in other claim 1 items.
- c. Applicant alleges that Sedlar does not teach the distribution of control of the hierarchical structure through the selection of inherited parameters to a user as recited in claim 1. As recited in the above rejection section, Sedlar has shown for items a and b in claim 1 that (column 1, line 58-column 2, line 12) the hierarchy-based organization is reflected in intuitive relationship between the meanings that have been assigned to the directories; (column 11, line 21-62) the access control is provided on file-by-file case; the permission type is recorded per user or group as the hierarchy-



based directory would (as per applicant) inherited per hierarch and thus distributed the specification of access control, i.e. distribution.

- d. Applicant alleges that Sedlar does not teach the storing and presentation of communication in relation to plurality of topics per claim 1. As responds in item a, Sedlar has shown “ready for review directory”, i.e. topics.
- e. Applicant further argues that improper claim rejection of claims 21, 28, 30, 31 and 34. Examiner has reviewed the claim language of claims 21, 28, 30, 31 and 34 as a set in comparison with the claim language of claims 1-3, 16 and 20 and determined even though they are of method and system respectively, and even though they may differ slightly in claim language, they are still of the same scope with respect to functional limitations considering the applied arts. Thus the reasons for rejection applied to one set would readily applied to the other.
- f. Applicant argues similarly the claim rejection of claims 35, 37-48 and 50-57 and the claim rejection of claims 95-98. The same response per item e is applied.
- g. In response to applicant’s argument with respect to claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based upon the argument above on independent claims 1, 21 and 35. The same response above in items a-e would apply.
- h. As applicant argues improper claim rejections of claim sets, claims 58-69, claims 70-80 and claims 81-95, the same response per item e is applied, e.g. claim 58 contains feature of digital binder per applicant’s argument does appear in claim 32.
- i. Examiner appreciates applicant’s response. Applicant is encouraged to restrict the claim set to several small claim sets, select and amended a claim set with claim

language to further the prosecution beyond examiner cited art, including those in the following Remarks section.

*Remarks*

15. The following pertaining arts are discovered and not used in this office action. Office reserves the right to use these arts in later actions.

- a. Schneider et al. (US 6105027 A) Techniques for eliminating redundant access checking by access filters
- b. Du et al. (US 6308163 B1) System and method for enterprise workflow resource management
- c. Bowman-Amuah (US 6697824 B1) Relationship management in an E-commerce application framework

*Conclusion*

16. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Refer to the enclosed PTO-892 for details.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peling A. Shaw whose telephone number is (571) 272-7968. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William C. Vaughn can be reached on (571) 272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

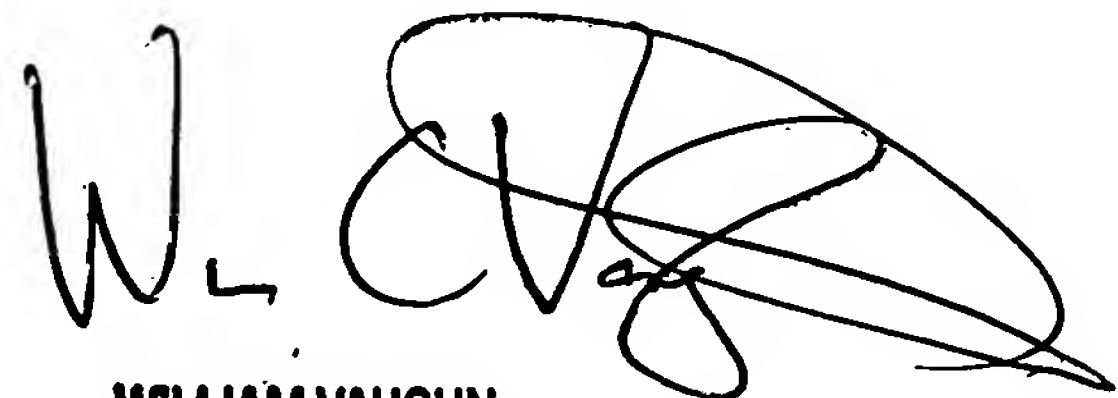
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Vaughn', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

**WILLIAM VAUGHN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100**